

CLAIMS

1. (After amendment) A method of measuring a chromosome territory, the method detecting a difference in state between a plurality of cells containing a chromosome territory by measuring a desired area of said cells in information of a plurality of images formed from a plurality of pixels having an attribute value, the images being taken of said plurality of cells, the method comprising:
 - extracting said chromosome territory from said image;
 - standardizing a positioning state of said chromosome territory and then quantifying said positioning state; and
- 10 detecting a difference in state between said cells based on the quantified positioning state of said chromosome territory,
 - said extracting including:
 - classifying said image into a plurality of classes; and
 - extracting any of said classes from said image as a region
 - 15 representing said chromosome territory, and
 - said classifying including:
 - setting an initial value for an attribute parameter indicating an attribute value of each of said classes and for a mixture ratio of each of said classes;
 - 20 calculating based on said attribute parameter and said mixture ratio a class membership probability of each of said plurality of pixels being classified into each of said classes;
 - calculating an evaluation function representing a goodness of estimation based on said membership probability and a mixture probability distribution defined by said attribute parameter and

said mixture ratio and determining whether or not said evaluation function satisfies predetermined conditions;

30 updating said attribute parameter and said mixture ratio when said evaluation function does not satisfy said predetermined conditions; and

classifying said plurality of pixels into any of said plurality of classes based on said attribute parameter and said mixture ratio when said evaluation function satisfies said predetermined conditions.

2. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in Claim 1,

5 wherein in said chromosome territory extraction, in addition to extracting a nucleus of said cell said chromosome territory contained in said nucleus is extracted, and

10 said positioning state quantification comprises standardizing a form of said nucleus and transforming coordinates of said chromosome territory based on a change in form between said nucleus before standardization and said nucleus after standardization.

3. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in Claim 1 or Claim 2, the method further comprising:

statistically processing quantification results of said positioning state of a plurality of cells,

5 wherein in said detection of difference in state between cells, a difference in state of a single cell is detected based on a result

of quantifying said positioning state of said single cell and a result of said statistical processing.

4. (After amendment) The detection method as set forth in Claim 3,

wherein said statistical processing comprises calculating a standard value of a quantification result of said positioning state 5 based on a result of quantifying said positioning state of a plurality of cells, and

in said detection of difference in state between cells, a difference in state of a single cell is detected based on a result of quantifying said positioning state of said single cell and said 10 standard value.

5. (After amendment) A method of measuring a chromosome territory, the method detecting a difference in state between a plurality of cells containing a chromosome territory by measuring a desired area of said cells in information of a plurality of images formed from 5 a plurality of pixels having an attribute value, the images being taken of said plurality of cells, the method comprising:

extracting a plurality of chromosome territories from said image;

quantifying a positioning state of said plurality of 10 chromosome territories;

statistically processing results of quantifying said positioning state of a plurality of cells; and

detecting a difference in state of a single cell based on a

result of quantifying said positioning state of said single cell
15 and a result of said statistical processing,
said extracting including:
classifying said image into a plurality of classes; and
extracting any of said classes from said image as a region
representing said chromosome territory, and
20 said classifying including:
setting an initial value for an attribute parameter indicating
an attribute value of each of said classes and for a mixture ratio
of each of said classes;
calculating based on said attribute parameter and said mixture
25 ratio a class membership probability of each of said plurality of
pixels being classified into each of said classes;
calculating an evaluation function representing a goodness
of estimation based on said membership probability and a mixture
probability distribution defined by said attribute parameter and
30 said mixture ratio and determining whether or not said evaluation
function satisfies predetermined conditions;
updating said attribute parameter and said mixture ratio when
said evaluation function does not satisfy said predetermined
conditions; and
35 classifying said plurality of pixels into any of said
plurality of classes based on said attribute parameter and said
mixture ratio when said evaluation function satisfies said
predetermined conditions.

6. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in Claim

5,

wherein said positioning state comprises at least one of a distance between said plurality of chromosome territories and a 5 positioning direction of said plurality of chromosome territories.

7. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in Claim 5 or 6,

wherein said quantifying comprises calculating a distance between said plurality of chromosome territories.

8. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in Claim 7,

wherein said distance calculation comprises:

calculating a center of gravity of each of said plurality of 5 chromosome territories; and

calculating a distance between said centers of gravity.

9. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in any one of Claims 5 to 8,

wherein said quantifying comprises quantifying a positioning direction of said plurality of chromosome territories.

10. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in Claim 9,

wherein said positioning direction quantification comprises:

detecting a principal axis of each of said plurality of 5 chromosome territories; and

calculating an angle of said principal axis.

11. (After amendment) A method of measuring a chromosome territory, the method detecting a difference in state between a plurality of cells containing a chromosome territory by measuring a desired area of said cells in information of a plurality of images formed from 5 a plurality of pixels having an attribute value, the images being taken of said plurality of cells, the method comprising:

extracting each of a nucleus of said cell and said chromosome territory from said image;

10 quantifying a positioning state of said nucleus and said chromosome territory;

statistically processing a result of quantifying said positioning state of a plurality of cells; and

15 detecting a difference in state of a single cell based on a result of quantifying said positioning state of said single cell and a result of said statistical processing,

said extracting including:

classifying said image into a plurality of classes; and

extracting any of said classes from said image as a region representing said chromosome territory, and

20 said classifying including:

setting an initial value for an attribute parameter indicating an attribute value of each of said classes and for a mixture ratio of each of said classes;

25 calculating based on said attribute parameter and said mixture ratio a class membership probability of each of said plurality of

pixels being classified into each of said classes;

calculating an evaluation function representing a goodness of estimation based on said membership probability and a mixture probability distribution defined by said attribute parameter and
30 said mixture ratio and determining whether or not said evaluation function satisfies predetermined conditions;

updating said attribute parameter and said mixture ratio when said evaluation function does not satisfy said predetermined conditions; and

35 classifying said plurality of pixels into any of said plurality of classes based on said attribute parameter and said mixture ratio when said evaluation function satisfies said predetermined conditions.

12. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in Claim 11,

wherein said quantifying comprises calculating a distance between a reference point within said nucleus and said chromosome
5 territory.

13. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in any one of Claims 5 to 12,

wherein said chromosome territory positioning state quantification further comprises standardizing a positioning state
5 of said chromosome territory, and after standardizing the positioning state of said chromosome territory, quantifying said positioning state.

14. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in Claim 13,

wherein said statistical processing comprises calculating a standard value of a quantification result of said positioning state 5 based on a result of quantifying said positioning state of a plurality of cells; and

in said detection of difference in state of a single cell, a difference in state of a single cell is detected based on a result of quantifying said positioning state of said single cell and said 10 standard value.

15. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in any one of Claims 1 to 14,

wherein said positioning state comprises at least one of a relative position of said chromosome territory within a nucleus of 5 said cell, a direction of a principal axis of said chromosome territory, and a spread of said chromosome territory.

16. (Deleted)

17. (After amendment) The measurement method as set forth in Claim 1,

wherein said class membership probability calculation comprises:

5 decomposing said plurality of pixels into a plurality of partial spaces according to an attribute value of said pixels;

calculating a coarse-grained empirical probability distribution representing a proportion of pixels contained in said partial space; and

10 calculating based on said attribute parameter and said mixture ratio a coarse-grained class membership probability of each of said partial spaces being classified into each of said classes; and

15 said evaluation function calculation comprises calculating a coarse-grained mixture probability distribution by averaging, within said partial space, mixture probability distributions defined by said attribute parameter and said mixture ratio, said evaluation function being calculated based on said coarse-grained empirical probability distribution, said coarse-grained mixture probability distribution, and said coarse-grained class membership probability.

18. (Deleted)

19. (Deleted)

20. (Deleted)

21. (Deleted)

22. (Deleted)